



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

Four New Excise Officers Graduate from Police Academy

PLAINFIELD, Ind. (March 22) – Four new Indiana State Excise Police officers graduated with more than 100 other police officers and sheriff's deputies from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy today.

Excise Police Superintendent Matt Strittmatter gave the keynote address to graduates and hundreds of family members and friends in attendance.

Strittmatter, who is a former Indiana State Police sergeant and two-term Wayne County Sheriff, told the graduates that the personal rewards of a law-enforcement professional can go far beyond personal accomplishments. He shared the story of his role as a mentor to a young man who had a challenging family background. Strittmatter's work with this young man over the years helped lead to his successful career as an international business lawyer, and a life-long friendship between the two and their families.

One of the agency's officers was awarded second place for firearms proficiency, beating the scores of 107 of his classmates. Another excise officer served as squad leader during the 15-week training program, which requires officers to reside at the police academy in Plainfield, Ind.

The ILEA training is in addition to the Indiana State Excise Police's own Recruit School, itself an 8-to-10-week training program held at the Academy. Excise officers also undergo a rigorous 12-week field-training program in their assigned districts. As such, excise officers are among the most highly trained law-enforcement professionals in Indiana.

Although it is customary with other law-enforcement agencies, because of the nature of their new assignments, the names and photographs of today's Academy graduates will not be released. The new officers have been assigned to the northern part of the state.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.